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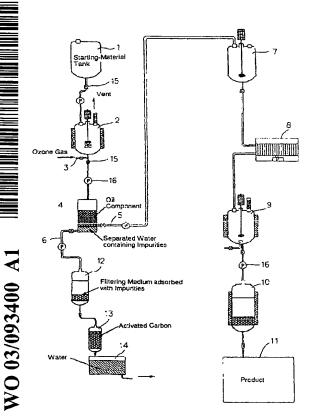
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD, APPARATUS AND PLANT FOR MANUFACTURING ENGINE FUEL



(57) Abstract: A method for manufacturing inexpensive and high-quality engine fuel, from a starting material comprising waste vegetable oils which have been conventionally wasted , is provided. There are provided; a starting-material tank (1) for storing oil/fat therein; a filtering device for filtering out solid components of the oil/fat in the starting-material tank; a first reaction vessel (5) for conducting first cracking by reacting ozone with the oil/fat; an oil/water separation device (4) for separating that water content involved in the cracking reaction, from the oil/fat; a first filtering device (8) for conducting first filtering of the oil/fat; a second reaction vessel (9) for conducting second cracking; a second filtering device (10); an adding device for adding an additive; an impurity adsorbing vessel (12) and a filtering vessel (13) for cooperatively purifying the water phase component from which the oil/fat phase has been excluded by the oil/water separation device; wherein in each of the first reaction and second reaction, there are delivered a reducing agent and polymerization inhibitor into the oil/fat.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C10G55/06 B01J B01J19/18 B01J19/26 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) TPC 7 C10G C10L B01J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX, API Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y EP 1 026 224 A (MAERKL HERBERT) 1-8 9 August 2000 (2000-08-09) cited in the application paragraphs '0040!-'0058! X 9-12 figures 1,2,6,12; table 1 US 4 747 696 A (MCCRORY CARL E ET AL) 9,10 31 May 1988 (1988-05-31) column 1, line 40 - line 66 Α US 2001/055237 A1 (DOMINIK BRADLEY S ET 9,10 AL) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) abstract; figures 1-10 P,X WO 02 38708 A (MURAKAMI SEISHIRO ; FUJITA 9-12 HIDEYUKI (JP)) 16 May 2002 (2002-05-16) figures 3,4,6 Х Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but clted to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the dalmed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 3 April 2003 11/04/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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	Chanon of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	 Relevant to claim No.
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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-8 (part)

Present claims 1, 7 relate to a process comprising a "first treatment step" and a "second treatment step", which steps comprise the introduction of a compound that is defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely:
Claim 1: a polymerization inhibitor;

Claim 7: a polymerization inhibitor including a phosphorus compound.

The claims cover all possible compounds having this characteristic or property. However, the application does not provide any further support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT as to the chemical identity of said compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT), because an attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely to the claimed process comprising a "first treatment step" and a "second treatment step", which steps may or may not comprise the introduction of a polymerization inhibitor.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte	al Application No
PCT/JP	02/05682

	atent document d in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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